

Message Text

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71

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R 181424Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO MARSECTYGDBN ARLINGTONVA
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
SECSTATE WASHDC 8379

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TANANARIVE 1328

MARSECTYGDBN FOR COMMANDANT, US MARINE CORPS

NAIROBI FOR CO, CO "F" MSGBN FOR CO/EXO PERSON

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OMSG, AWRD, PDIP, MA

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION FOR NCOIC DYER

1. MSGT MELVIN DYER'S FORCED DEPARTURE FROM TANANARIVE SHOULD NOT REFLECT IN THE LEAST ON THE SUPERIOR MANNER IN WHICH HE ESTABLISHED THE MSG DETACHMENT AT THIS POST. HIS OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL BEHAVIOR, AS WELL AS THAT OF HIS FAMILY'S, HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY, AND I AM LEFT TO CONCLUDE THAT GOVERNMENT OF MADAGASCAR'S DECISION TO "SUGGEST" THAT HE DEPART IS EITHER RESULT OF MISUNDERSTANDING OR OF MACHINATIONS WITHIN THEIR GOVERNMENT WHICH LEAVES THE DYER FAMILY AS THE UNFORTUNATE VICTIMS. EVEN WERE DYER NOT FORCED TO LEAVE PRECIPITOUSLY, I WOULD HAVE ASKED FOR APPROPRIATE RECOGNITION FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE BY SOME MEANS OF COMMENDATION. I AM CERTAIN THAT MY VIEWS WILL BE BORNE OUT BY MAJOR THOMAS F. MILLER, III, FORMER CO OF CO. F, NAIROBI.

2. MY RECOMMENDATION IS BASED ON FOLLOWING:

A. ON JULY 8, 1974,
MSGT MELVIN E. DYER, USMC, ARRIVED IN TANANARIVE,
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MADAGASCAR, TO ESTABLISH THE MARINE SECURITY GUARD

DETACHMENT. HE INTELLIGENTLY MADE THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS FOR THE ARRIVAL OF HIS WATCHSTANDERS, ESPECIALLY WITH CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT CERTAIN ELEMENTS IN MADAGASCAR, ALTHOUGH SMALL IN NUMBER, WERE HOSTILE TO THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN MILITARY (ESPECIALLY US) AND WERE SEEKING TO ATTAIN GREATER POWER IN THE COUNTRY. MSGT DYER SET A STANDARD FOR HIS MARINES THAT HAS RESULTED, FOR THE PAST TWO SIX-MONTH CYCLES, IN THIS DETACHMENT'S WINNING OF THE ALL-AFRICA COMPETITION AMONG MSG DETACHMENTS.

B. SHORTLY AFTER THE DETACHMENT ARRIVED, THE UNCERTAIN POLITICAL SITUATION IN MADAGASCAR GAVE WAY, IN FEBRUARY 1975, TO A SERIES OF VIOLENT EVENTS, INCLUDING ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY. FOR SIX WEEKS THERE WAS MARTIAL LAW, CONSTANT SHOOTING IN TANANARIVE, LACK OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD, AND GENERAL RESTRICTION OF EVERYONE'S ACTIVITIES. UNDER MSGT DYER'S CAREFUL DIRECTION, THE EMBASSY REMAINED SECURE AT ALL TIMES, AND THE MARINES' PERFORMANCE WAS OUTSTANDING AND DISCREET.

C. THERE ARE ALSO NUMEROUS INSTANCES OF MSGT DYER'S PERSONAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE BOTH THE MORALE AND THE WORKING EFFICIENCY OF THE EMBASSY. HE UNDERTOOK, ON THE BASIS OF HIS PAST EXPERIENCE, RESTRUCTURING THE EMBASSY'S INVENTORY AND WAREHOUSING; HE HAS UNFAILINGLY ASSISTED ANY ONE OF THE STAFF WHENEVER NECESSARY; AND HE HAS ENSURED THAT THE MARINE HOUSE SERVES AS A FRIENDLY, OPEN HOUSE FOR ALL AMERICANS AND THEIR FRIENDS.

3. AS YOU KNOW, GENERAL WILSON, I WAS PLEASED TO HAVE SERVED AS A CIVILIAN ADVISOR TO III MAF IN VIET NAM DURING THE YEARS 1965-66. I HAVE ALSO KNOWN MANY MARINES AND NCOICS IN NEARLY TWENTY YEARS OF FOREIGN SERVICE EXPERIENCE. THE CORPS SHOULD BE PROUD OF MSGT DYER, WHO RATES AMONG THE BEST I HAVE SEEN, AND I TAKE EXTREME PLEASURE IN RECOMMENDING THAT THE CORPS PROVIDE HIM WITH AN APPROPRIATE COMMENDATION.
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BEST REGARDS. GILBERT H. SHEINBAUM, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.E.
SHEINBAUM

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